Claims 6, 7 and 11 – 21 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 1 – 5 and 8 – 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend the remaining claims, as follows:

1 - 5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Original) A method of allocating computer resources to each of a plurality of users connected to a computer system via an external network, the computer system including a plurality of computers interconnected via an internal network for processing an input packet from each user, and the method comprising the steps of:

for a use contract between each user and the computer system, setting from each user a virtual IP address to be used as an access destination address of a process request packet, as an address to be used for accessing the user system in the computer system, determining from the process request packet which of an access source IP address and an access destination IP address in the process request packet is used as information necessary for identifying a user related to the process request packet, and urging each user to input the virtual address;

urging each user to input a service level condition as a portion of the use contract, the service level condition including at least upper [[and]] or lower limits of the number of computers allocated to process the process request packet supplied from each user; and

allocating a computer for processing the process request packet supplied from each user in accordance with the input service level condition, and recording a history of the number of allocated computers.

7.   (Original) A method of allocating computer resources to each of a plurality of users connected to a computer system via an external network, the computer system including a plurality of computers interconnected via an internal network for processing an input packet from each user, and the method comprising the steps of:

for a use contract between each user and the computer system, setting from each user a virtual IP address to be used as an access destination address of a process request packet, as an address to be used for accessing the user system in the computer system, determining from the process request packet which of an access source IP

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address and an access destination IP address in the process request packet is used as information necessary for identifying a user related to the process request packet, and urging each user to input the virtual address;

urging each user to input a service level condition as a portion of the use contract, the service level condition including at least a use rate of computers allocated to process the process request packet supplied from each user; and

allocating a computer for processing the process request packet supplied from each user in accordance with the input service level condition, and recording a history of the use rate of allocated computers.

8 - 10. (Canceled).

11. (Original) A computer resource allocating method for a computer system having a plurality of computers interconnected via a network and processing a request from each of a plurality of users, the method automatically changing a computer allocation to each user, and the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring an operation state of the computer resources;

comparing the operation state with a service level of each user;

judging from the comparison whether a computer allocation to each user is to be changed;

changing a computer allocation table of each user; and

changing charge information in accordance with a change in the computer allocation.

12. (Original) A computer resource allocating method for a computer system having a plurality of computers interconnected via a network and processing a request from each of a plurality of users, the method automatically changing a computer allocation to each user, and the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an operation state of the computer resources;

comparing the operation state with a service level of each user;

judging from the comparison whether a computer allocation to each user is to be changed; and

if it is judged that a change in the computer allocation is necessary, changing a computer allocation table of each user.

13.   (Original) A computer resource allocating method according to claim 12, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of load allocating means, and the method further comprises the steps of setting the changed computer allocation table of each user to the load allocating means, and of standing by until the setting at all of the plurality of load allocating means is completed.

14.   (Original) A computer resource allocating method according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of computers include a plurality of computer groups having different functions, the computer allocation allocates computers belonging to the same computer group, and when the computer resources of some computer group are to be increased, computers are selected from the same computer group.

15.   (Original) A computer resource allocating method for a computer system having a plurality of computers interconnected via a network each being set with a standard access root file, the computer system processing a request from each of a plurality of users, the method automatically changing a computer allocation to each user, and the method comprising the steps of:

         receiving an operation state of the computer resources;

         comparing the operation state with a service level of each user;

         judging from the comparison whether a computer allocation to each user is changed;

         changing a computer allocation table of each user; and

         instructing to change the root file name of each computer.

16.   (Original) A computer system having a plurality of computers and computer resource allocating means interconnected via a network and processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, said computer resource allocating means comprising:

         means for receiving an operation state of the computer resources;

         means for comparing the operation state with a service level of each user and judging from the comparison whether a computer allocation to each user is changed;

and

means for changing a computer allocation table of each user if the computer allocation table is to be changed.

17. (Original) A computer system according to claim 16, wherein said computer resource allocating means further comprises:

means for monitoring the operation state of the computer resources; and

means for changing charge information in accordance with a change in the computer allocation.

18. (Original) A computer resource allocating method for a computer system having one or more computers interconnected via a network and processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, each computer performing a time divisional operation of a plurality of operating systems each utilizing a dedicated resource, the computer system being capable of defining an execution rate of the time divisional operation, and the method for automatically changing a computer allocation to each user, comprising the steps of:

monitoring an operation state of the computer resources;

comparing the operation state with a service level of each user;

judging from the comparison whether a rate of the time divisional operation for each user is changed;

changing a time divisional operation rate table of each user; and

changing charge information in accordance with a change in the time divisional operation rate.

19. (Original) A computer resource allocating method for a computer system having one or more computers interconnected via a network and processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, each computer performing a time divisional operation of a plurality of operating systems each utilizing a dedicated resource, the computer system being capable of defining an execution rate of the time divisional operation, and the method for automatically changing a computer allocation to each user, comprising the steps of:

receiving an operation state of the computer resources;

comparing the operation state with a service level of each user;

judging from the comparison whether a rate of the time divisional operation for each user is changed; and

changing a time divisional operation rate table of each user.

20. (Original) A computer system having one or more computers and computer resource allocating means interconnected via a network and processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, each computer performing a time divisional operation of a plurality of operating systems each utilizing a dedicated resource, the computer system being capable of defining an execution rate of the time divisional operation, and said computer resource allocating means comprising:

means for receiving an operation state of the computer resources;

means for comparing the operation state with a service level of each user and judging from the comparison whether a computer allocation to each user is changed; and

means for changing a computer allocation table of each user if the computer allocation table is to be changed.

21. (Original) A computer system according to claim 20, wherein said computer resource allocating means further comprises:

means for monitoring the operation state of the computer resources; and

means for changing charge information in accordance with a change in the computer allocation.

22. (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having a plurality of computers and computer resources allocating means interconnected by a network, the computer system processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, and the method for charging each user, comprising the steps of:

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of computer resources;

recording the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times for each user identifier; and

calculating a charge in accordance with products of the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times.

23. (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having a plurality of computers classified into computer groups each having a different function and a plurality of computer resources allocating means, respectively interconnected by a network, the computer system processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, and the method for charging each user, comprising the steps of:

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of computer resources and changing if necessary a computer allocation to each user in accordance with the comparison;

recording the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times for each computer group and for each user identifier; and

calculating a charge in accordance with products of the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times for each computer group.

24. (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having a plurality of computers classified into computer groups each having a different performance and a plurality of computer resources allocating means, respectively interconnected by a network, the computer system processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, and the method for charging each user, comprising the steps of:

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of computer resources and changing if necessary a computer allocation to each user in accordance with the comparison;

recording the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times for each computer group and for each user identifier; and

calculating a charge in accordance with products of the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times for each computer group.

25. (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having a plurality of computers and computer resources allocating means interconnected by a network, the computer system processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, and the method for charging each user, comprising the steps of:

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of computer resources and changing if necessary a computer allocation to each user in accordance with the comparison;

measuring the number of request packets per unit time input to the computer system from each user and the number of response packets per unit time sent from the computer system to each user; and

calculating a charge from a measurement result.

26.   (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having one or more computers and computer resource allocating means interconnected via a network and processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, each computer performing a time divisional operation of a plurality of operating systems each utilizing a dedicated resource, the computer system being capable of defining an execution rate of the time divisional operation, and the method for charging each user, comprising the steps of:

automatically changing a computer allocation to each user;

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of computer resources and changing if necessary a time division allocation rate of a computer time division operation of each user;

recording the time division allocation rate and allocated time at each user identifier; and

calculating a charge from a product of the allocation time rate and allocated time.

27.   (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having a plurality of computers classified into computer groups each having a different function and a plurality of computer resources allocating means, respectively interconnected by a network, the computer system processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, each computer performing a time divisional operation of a plurality of operating systems each utilizing a dedicated resource, the computer system being capable of defining an execution rate of the time divisional operation, and the method for charging each user comprising the steps of:

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of

computer resources and changing if necessary a computer allocation and a time division allocation rate of the time division operation of each user in accordance with the comparison;

recording the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times, time division allocation rates and allocated times for each computer group and for each user identifier; and

calculating a charge in accordance with products of the numbers of allocated computers, allocation rates and allocated times for each computer group.

28. (Withdrawn) A charging method for a computer system having a plurality of computers classified into computer groups each having a different performance and a plurality of computer resources allocating means, respectively interconnected by a network, the computer system processing a request packet from each of a plurality of users, and the method for charging each user, comprising the steps of:

comparing a service level preset to each user with an operation state of computer resources and changing if necessary a computer allocation and a time division allocation rate of the time division operation to each user in accordance with the comparison;

recording the numbers of allocated computers and allocated times, time division allocation rates and allocated times for each computer group and for each user identifier; and

calculating a charge in accordance with products of the numbers of allocated computers, allocation rates and allocated times for each computer group.